Docket No.: 03108/0201075-US0

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- (Currently amended) A biological process for the a synthesis of shape, size and 1. polymorph controlled oxide nanoparticles, which process comprises incubating a wet fungus or fungal extract with an aqueous metal salt solution of a metal salt to obtain a biomass, separating the biomass and filtering the oxide nanoparticles therefrom the biomass.
- 2. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the incubation of the wet fungus fungal extract with the metal salt solution is carried out at a temperature in a range of ranging from 15 °C to 40 °C and for a period in the range of 1 to 3 days.
- 3. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the biomass is filtered using a minimum 1 micron-pore size filter of at least 1 micron to obtain the oxide nanoparticles.
- 4. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim wherein the metal salt is selected from the group consisting of chlorides, nitrates, oxalates and sulfates.
- 5. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fungus is used in whole cell form, wet solid mass or fungal extract.
- 6. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1-2 wherein the temperature for incubation is in the ranges from of 23 °C - to 33 °C.
- 7. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the temperature for incubation is in the ranges of from 25 °C -to 29°C.
- 8. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the concentration of the metal salt-in the solution is not less than 1mM.

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- 9. (Currently amended) A-<u>The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet</u> fungus or fungal extract is used in an amount of <u>from 10 to 60 mgs</u>.
- 10. (Currently amended) A-The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet fungus is selected from the group consisting of Fusarium sp., Trichothecium sp., Verticillim sp., Chloridium sp., Aspergillus sp., Cephaliophora sp., Fusarium oxysporum and Helicostylum sp.
- 11. (Currently amended) A-<u>The</u> process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal comprises a metal from the transition group metal-group.
- 12. (Currently amended) A-<u>The</u> process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Si and Zn.